

POSTOFFICE BREAKS RECORD

Twenty-five Million Letters and Cards — Post Increases Burden—Howell Congratulated

During the year 1917 the total business of the Chattanooga postoffice, not including documentary, war saving or thrift stamps, was \$54,000. This stands against \$43,000 in 1916, and shows an increase of \$11,000. It is estimated, however, that the office lost revenues to the amount of \$125,000 from the whiskey business. According to these figures, the business has in reality increased \$146,000.

During the year over 25,000,000 letters and postcards went through the office. Station A, in the James building, which is in charge of J. L. Park, sold \$171,000 worth of stamps, which almost equals the amount sold by the main office.

Postmaster Howell has received many congratulations over the success of the local office, but he refuses to take the credit entirely himself, attributing it to his force, which is headed by the following officers: R. M. George, superintendent of mails; John D. Stewart, assistant superintendent of mails; J. S. Walker, assistant superintendent of mails; J. Shelton, assistant postmaster; E. K. Reynolds, cashier; G. C. Ransom, money order clerk; and J. M. Reed, secretary.

Mail coming to Chattanooga from Fort Oglethorpe Christmas maces it necessary to call into service sixteen trucks, each making ten trips a day, to handle the mail. A force of 100 clerks and sixty-five carriers has been kept during the year and sixty-five extra men were employed for the Christmas rush.

An extract of a congratulatory letter from the assistant postmaster-general to Postmaster Howell is as follows:

"I also wish at this time to express my great appreciation of the valuable services you have rendered during the past year in assisting the department in meeting the many problems which have confronted us. I feel that the postal service, notwithstanding the many unusual burdens thrown upon it, has rendered a service during these trying times which speaks well for the postmasters and the entire personnel. I confidently believe that by a continuation of our close co-operation we can meet and successfully solve the questions which will arise during the coming year."

The postmaster has received numerous other letters from prominent Chattanoogaans stating an appreciation of the enormous extra burdens placed on the local office by the post and complimenting the service. The change to a three-cent letter rate is reported as having cut the volume of mail by one-third and increased the revenue 50 per cent.

REMARKABLE WOMAN DIES AT AGE OF 117

When the Grim Reaper laid his chill hand on Mrs. Sarah Sealf, Monday the page of life of an aged and picturesque character was forever closed.

Mrs. Sealf, who gave her age as 117 years and the place of her birth as Pulaski county, Virginia, had been ill for several days. She resided with her son-in-law, John Lowe, on McMillan row in St. Elmo.

At the age of about 9 years she went with her brother and sister to hunt for ginseng in the mountains. She was lost in a storm that night, and was found by the woods for six months. She ate berries for food, and a blanket of leaves served as a covering when she slept.

All efforts to locate her were fruitless, but one night her father, dreaming that his dog had found her, arose, started out with the dog, and soon located her asleep beside a log. The sight of her father frightened her and she darted away through the woods, but was soon overtaken and carried home.

Following her marriage in 1836 she came to Tennessee, and for many years had resided in this section. She vividly recalled incidents connected with the war of 1812, the Mexican war, the grim conflict between north and south and other events of the early periods.

Funeral services over the body of the deceased were held from the residence of John Lowe at 2 Tuesday afternoon, after which the body was brought to the undertaking establishment of the Harry E. Chapman company, where it will remain until Wednesday morning, when interment will be made in White Oak cemetery.

FORT OGLETHORPE LINE

Effective Thursday, Jan. 3, 1918, cars on the new line to Fort Oglethorpe will be routed by way of Knoxville Short Line to Forty-fifth street, thence to terminus.

Cars leave Seventh and Market streets ten minutes, thirty minutes and fifty minutes after the hour. Chattanooga Railway and Light Company.

Automobile Insurance

This is all we ask for Insurance. Why pay more? Ford, any model, \$30.00. Maxwell, any model, \$30.00. Oakland, any model, \$30.00. Saxon, any model, \$30.00. 1916-1917 Buick, \$30.00. Chevrolet, any model, \$30.00. Dodge, any model, \$42.50. Other models in proportion. Better phone us today.

SIDNEY B. ELMORE & CO.

312 Ham. Nat. Bk. Bldg. M. 1273

NEW LYRIC Presents

Loew's Vaudeville

Continues 1 to 11 p.m. Vaudeville 7 and 9 p.m. Saturday and Holidays, 2, 4, 7, 9 p.m. Matinee 1:30 and 3:30. Nights 1916-1917 Buick and 30c. Night Prices Saturday and Holiday Matinees.

The Well-Known Legitimate Star, MAUDE LEONE & CO. In an Absolutely New Comedy, "MOVIE MIMICRY". A Satire on the Movies. Written Especially for Her by Willard Mack.

6-BIG VAUDEVILLE ACTS—5

KITTY GORDON In Photoplay "HER HOUR"

STARS IN ROTARY'S "MAN OF THE HOUR"



Z. C. PATTEN, JR.

As Mills Wainwright Butler in the Rotary club's performance of the "Man of the Hour," Mr. Patten will demonstrate his talent as an actor.

R. C. JONES.

"Bob" appears in the "Man of the Hour" as Ingram, the mayor's doorkeeper, an old soldier who served under the mayor's father.

MAY COMMANDEER UNIFORMS IN ALL LOCAL ESTABLISHMENTS

The quartermaster at Fort Oglethorpe has the fuel situation well in hand, and Chickamauga park can stand a siege of several days by the blizzard enemy without experiencing any serious fuel shortage. In many of the cantonments wood is being burned in the stoves. It is saved into short, thick chunks and burns well.

In the matter of clothing, there is some shortage among the troops. This is said to be due largely to carelessness at the bases of supply, which have paid little attention to sizes when filling requisitions from the Fort Oglethorpe authorities. One instance is reported, unofficially, where an entire shipment of leggings for a regiment came all in one size, and that size was so small that the officers reached the conclusion that the leggings were intended originally for a regiment of Boy Scouts.

One soldier, when asked why he wore his overcoat in the house, showed one very good reason—the seat of his breeches had disappeared from contact with the tooth of time.

The suggestion has been made at the Chickamauga park camp that the quartermaster take the same steps that have been taken elsewhere in the effort to provide uniforms for enlisted men—by commandeering the uniforms kept by merchants in their stores. This, it is stated, may be done in the near future.

The fear that Gen. Erwin might place a ban on fleece-lined trench coats for officers' wear, as was done at the Chickamauga park, has been allayed. The command officers, relieved to an extent Monday when the general appeared at headquarters clad in one of the homely yet comfortable garments. There are many of them among the officers at the park, and there appears to be no belief that both these coats and the barracks caps are safe, for the present, at least.

Drill Snowed Under. There was no drill or other work at the military camp Tuesday, except such as was absolutely necessary for the health and comfort of men and animals. Many of the soldiers were given passes for one day or more, but the "Y" buildings were the chief centers of congregation at the beginning of the new year, and they were crowded, except at meal times.

Headquarters for troops at Chickamauga park will remain at the old location, Fort Oglethorpe, for some time, according to present plans. The division headquarters at the civic center will not be opened at this time, it is stated. The buildings are not furnished, and no division staff has yet been assembled and organized.

Commanding officers of the four brigades at the park will proceed at once to furnish the brigade headquarters that are situated near the cantonments of their respective regiments and to organize brigade commissaries and noncommissioned staffs. In the meantime brigade headquarters are located temporarily within the regimental cantonments.

Organize Club. The movement is well under way to organize a branch of the United Service Club of America among the officers of Chickamauga park. The headquarters of the club in Washington has sent to local officers the following memorandum in regard to the organization and its aims:

"The necessity of a club for officers of all branches of the service is well recognized. The club has taken being under the name of the United Service Club of America and was established on Dec. 15 with a charter membership of 250. The headquarters are at the Westinghouse mansion on Dupont circle, Washington, D. C.

"It is the scope of the club to promote social intercourse between its members, to provide dormitories and officers' quarters for permanent and transient guests, to conduct an excellent restaurant and, in general, maintain an official home for all officers of the service.

"In the first meeting of the club Brig.-Gen. John Biddle, acting chief of staff, was elected president, and a board of governors, consisting of fifteen officers of every branch of the service, was elected.

"The luxuriously furnished home of Westinghouse gives the club a fine opportunity to furnish the officers stationed in Washington a home where they are able to mingle with their fellow officers, and also being equipped with nearly 200 men in restaurant style is a great advantage to all the men.

"The club extends to the men at all the cantonments an invitation to become members, the fee being a dollar and \$5 a year. It is hoped that the officers at the various cantonments will get enthusiastic and originate branch clubs at their headquarters. Later a club will be formed at England and France, which will go down as one of the most enjoyable events in the history of the Engine Company No. 7.

Following the banquet—and it was some feast—the guests, numbering about 150, enjoyed dancing until the "wee sma" hours of Tuesday morning, when they departed with best wishes to the engine company members for a happy New Year.

The menus were attractively gotten up, with red, white and blue ribbons as decorations. The flower designs on the fronts of the menus were the handiwork of Mrs. Hicks and gave evidence of her ability as an artist.

For the convenience of the members of the band five automobiles were furnished to bring the musicians in from the post and return them to their regiment. The engine company also furnished three large touring cars for the convenience of the guests. The Johnson Floral company and John Karsten donated the beautiful floral designs for the banquet tables.

JOHN COTTER, PLUMBING INSPECTOR, BREAKS ARM

John Cotter, city plumbing inspector, suffered a broken arm Monday night, when he slipped and fell. He was returning from a party on College hill at the time of the accident.

HAVE TROUBLE GETTING WOOD

More Coal in City and Situation Improving—Transportation Better.

The special wood committee recently appointed by the Chattanooga Manufacturers' association to look into the possibility of getting wood into Chattanooga has so far met with little success.

Garnett Andrews, the chairman of the committee, stated Monday that he had engaged thirty cords of wood from Julian Shipp, beyond Missionary ridge, to be hauled in Monday morning. These cords were to be hauled immediately, ten cords being assigned to one place, five to another and fifteen to another; but it later developed that the wood could not be delivered, as the teams could not be secured.

It is thought, however, that by the latter part of the week the committee will have wood enough coming into Chattanooga to fill the orders now on the books. The trouble has not been due to the fact that wood could not be obtained, but in the difficulty in getting it hauled.

The fuel situation in East Lake, which has been the most serious during the coal shortage, has not been relieved so far, and it is understood that the number of the homes in that section are without any fire at all.

The manager of the East Lake coal company stated Tuesday morning that there were two small cars on the sidetrack which he thought would reach his place before dinner. These would contain about fifty tons, which he said would only be a drop in the bucket. In order to relieve some of the suffering which he thought would reach his place before dinner, these would contain about fifty tons, which he said would only be a drop in the bucket.

Relief in Sight.

Twenty-two cars of coal were brought to the city over the Southern road Tuesday morning, the orders being booked about half and half to the manufacturers and dealers. The railroad authorities stated that these cars were being delivered to the dealers just as promptly as possible. This is very much better than the record this road made Monday morning, when only one car reached Chattanooga over this road.

Garnett Andrews has been giving the greater part of his time to the coal situation since he was appointed on this committee, trying to relieve the conditions. Mr. Andrews reported Tuesday morning that he had engaged as much as 1,000 cords of wood, which he thought the weather was favorable it would begin to reach Chattanooga. The fact that a supply has not already been obtained is not the fault of the committee, but is due to the fact that the supply is impossible for the wood to be cut and hauled.

SCRAMBLE FOR AUTO LICENSES FOR NEW YEAR

The last day of the year 1917 and the first day of the year 1918 have been two of the very busiest in the county office during the administration of Clerk Charles Watson. New Year's day officers are busy, the office being crowded with applicants for automobile licenses. Mr. Watson states, in his opinion, that there are about 4,500 automobiles in Hamilton county, this including, of course, trucks, and cars, and that only 2,711 have secured their number plates. He urges that every one get their number plates as early as possible.

The records in the office of the county clerk show that of the 4,500 automobiles in Hamilton county 693 of them are "for rent" cars. The county clerk of each county throughout the state is instructed that distress warrants be issued March 1 for all cars that have not been licensed whether they are being used or not. This is done so that the money for the licenses can be turned in as early as possible and go towards the early building of good roads during the good weather. Monday Mr. Watson and his force were busy throughout the day and until late at night giving out licenses, and the New Year they are doing the same. The county clerk's office is the only one open New Year's.

QUESTIONNAIRES ARE RETURNED UNCLAIMED

Questionnaires mailed out by exemption board No. 1 of the city to the following men liable for military service have been returned unclaimed and unanswered.

This action on the part of the men liable to be placed in class 1 without further question and renders them liable to be called to service in the first draft regardless of their condition or dependencies.

The list returned unclaimed Tuesday follows: Daniel Cameron Sawyers, Jr., Detroit, Mich.; Sam Houston Adams, Fort Payne, Ala.; Robert Foster, William Lare, Robert Weston, Jaroslaus Williams, Silas Van Winkle, James West, Thomas Anderson Wafford, Walter Whittles, Eddie Tillman Fowler, John Robertson, Daniel Elbert Lowry, John Lindsay, Foster Norval, Henry Madison McCullough, Daniel Moses Humphreys, Anton Hasid, Arthur Cordell, Robert Bryant, Charlie Norris, John Varner, Clarence Stovall.

WAR BRINGS WEALTH OF WEDDINGS; 1,342 FOR YEAR

Dan Cupid, Esq., took a decided lead over his record in 1917, beating his record of that year by 223. The records in the office of County Court Clerk Charles Watson show that for the year 1917 just ending there were issued 1,342 marriage licenses, while the year 1916 showed that during that year there were 1,019 marriage licenses issued. The gain of course, is attributed to the war, as Clerk Watson says of the 1,342 issued for 1917 fully 500 of the marriage licenses were issued to soldiers mostly stationed at Chickamauga and other army posts who came here to marry Chattanooga girls. The record of 1917 is the largest within the history of the office.

PROHIBITION CAUSES BIG CRIME DECREASE

With the passing of the year 1917 into history it is interesting to note that during the twelve months, now numbered with by-gones, a total of 7,409 arrests were made by the local police and detective departments. Of this number 6,560 are credited to the police and 849 to members of the plainclothes force.

While 1917 was possibly the biggest year for the detective department in regard to burglaries and the stealing of property, it was a comparatively light period for the police from the standpoint of arrests, for the offenders taken into custody during a single month of a recent year numbered about 920.

The strong drive against King John Barleycorn is attributed as one of the causes for a decrease in arrests, while on the other hand arrests for violations of the automobile ordinances have been heavy during the past few months.

Then, too, the arrests made during 1917 have been principally for minor offenses.

From Oct. 1, 1916, up to Jan. 1, 1918, the police reports show that fifteen murders were committed in Chattanooga. There were three killings in December, 1917, and three in October of the same year.

The arrests on charges of selling liquor numbered 359 for the period between Oct. 1, 1916, and Jan. 1, 1918. For this same period it is shown by the police reports that there were 12 arrests for burglary, 81 for grand

larceny, 19 for robbery, 99 for house-breaking and larceny and 593 for larceny.

The police records show that from Oct. 1, 1916, to Jan. 1, 1918, property to the amount of \$31,444.95 was recovered.

During the twelve months of 1917, the reports of the detective department show, the property stolen in this city amounted to \$29,297.17, while the amount of property recovered by the plainclothes men was \$29,498.88. A total of 1,567 complaints were received in the robbery of Capt. F. F. Lucey's home. This crime is still being investigated.

Then in November a number of automobiles were stolen, but two or three have not yet been recovered.

The records in the detective's office show that two arrests for murder were made last January, one in July and another in October of 1917.

Swindlers worked their game here last spring and numbered among their victims a wealthy cattleman at Lyerly, Ga., who surrendered \$2,000 of his coin, while another victim parted with \$2,000, which represented his life savings.

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CHARLES WATSON VERY MUCH IN THE RACE

Through an oversight the name of Charles Watson, county clerk, was overlooked Monday in the list of candidates proposed for a fusion ticket. Of course, Mr. Watson's friends know that this was indeed a mistake, as his name for an endorsement by both parties was one of the very first mentioned. Mr. Watson's administration is recognized by Hamilton county officials to be one of the most systematic, as well as the most efficient, of any in the courthouse, and his friends are only waiting for an opportunity to give this official the splendid endorsement he so justly deserves. In the name of the fusion ticket it is being proposed, Charles L. Hayes, circuit court clerk, was in the list published Monday as county clerk. It should have been Charles L. Hayes for criminal court clerk and Charles Watson for county clerk.

GRAY GENTRY'S FORD TAKES FRENCH LEAVE

A Ford automobile, the property of Gray Gentry, local manager of the Cumberland Telephone and Telegraph company, was stolen from in front of the side entrance of the telephone company's office Monday night. The license number of the machine was 50855.

DUVAL-WERT SCHOOL TO REOPEN MONDAY

The Duval-Wert private school, 427 High street, will not resume work until Monday. Inclement weather and the difficulty of the children getting to and from school is given as the reason for postponing the date of opening.

GOOD SKETCH FEATURE AT LOEW'S LYRIC

Demonstrating that Chattanoogaans appreciate entertainment of the right sort, and that the Lyric is not the sort of a musical offerings, but featured by an unusual dramatic offering, "Movie Minnie," with Maude Leone as the star.

Of course we all know Minnie was a sluth when she first flared her black eyes across the foot; the sketch will have to be pardoned for "opening with a telephone explanation," and Miss Leone slightly over-emphasizes and over-enunciates, but this last fault is a shining virtue in this age of vaudeville mumbling, and the piece has many a good laugh and was heartily appreciated by a full house Monday night. The fact that Miss Leone hasn't "put a song in her act" for variety was also appreciated.

Some exceptional melody was offered by Bible and Hart. Both have well-trained voices and have selected a pleasing repertoire. Their superiority over other singing acts is only marred by a slight metallic ring but the general effect is exceptionally pleasing. Scanton and Kress, Bob Carlin and the Three Astellos offer a good acrobatic act with some exceptional features.

OPTIMISM AROUND BANQUET BOARD

The annual banquet of the Handy-Meek Grocery company, at which all of their salesmen and office force were present, was given at the Read house Saturday night. Every man present was imbued with the optimistic spirit of the occasion, and all forecast a big business for the new year.

FOUR GENERALS IN CONFERENCE

New Year's Day Occasion for Calls on Senior Officers at Chickamauga Park.

New Year's day is a time of official visits among the officers of the United States army, and it was observed in the usual manner at Fort Oglethorpe. Brig.-Gen. Charles H. Barth, Joseph A. Gaston and Walter H. Gordon called upon Brig.-Gen. James B. Erwin, the senior and commanding officer at the post, and paid their respects.

The commanding officers of all of the regiments at Chickamauga park also called upon the commanding officer of the post. There was an informal conference of the general officers at headquarters Tuesday morning.

Candidates from Fort Pike. Official information has been received that twenty-seven men who were to have attended a divisional training camp at Camp Pike, Ark., have been ordered to the Oglethorpe school as the training camp at this camp has been abandoned. This is taken as confirmation of the report that numerous other divisional camps will be abandoned and the candidates sent to Oglethorpe for training.

Candidates began arriving on New Year's morning, and by noon five of them had been registered at the park. The military school at Marion, Ala., it is announced, will send a number of its selected students to the camp. To accommodate the additional men said to have been ordered to Chickamauga park for training, several companies of medical enlisted men now at Camp Warden McLean will have to be moved to some other cantonment.

Under orders received Tuesday from the Southeastern department, the training camp, as originally planned, will have two batteries of field artillery, with 150 men each, and six infantry companies of about 160 each. These plans will have to be changed if the national guard divisions send their men to this camp.

Capt. Jelsa H. Cabanis, who commanded the eleventh company at the last camp is now assistant senior instructor at the divisional camp recently organized at Camp Gordon, Ga., for the national army division camped there. Capt. David Hawkins, who commanded the ninth company, is also connected with the staff of instructors at the Camp Gordon R. O. T. C.

Soldier Dies of Pneumonia. The body of John J. Horns, a recruit unassigned in the coast artillery corps, who died Sunday night at Fort Oglethorpe of pneumonia, will probably be sent Tuesday night by the Harry E. Chapman company to the home of his wife at Meigs, Ga., for funeral and interment.

DESPOUNDENT GIRL TAKES HER OWN LIFE

(Special to The News.) Knoxville, Jan. 1.—Despondent because her brother in Louisville was drafted, Nellie Jones, a Knoxville girl, committed suicide here by shooting herself.

Happy New Year!

May 1918 be like a smooth and lovely road with just enough windings in it to bring your Heart's dearest wish at each turning.

May your efforts to attain some goal be rewarded with full success and may health and happiness be always with you.

Starr Piano Co.

908 MARKET STREET.

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